

called up over the past two and one-half years. Reserve Components make up almost 50 percent of our forces in Iraq. It is time that we as a body recognize their service to our nation by providing TRICARE for Reserve Component personnel on a permanent basis. It is disgraceful that this Congress will not demonstrate the level of commitment for its citizen-soldiers that they so richly deserve.

I know how TRICARE is insufficient for our men and women fighting abroad, I've talked to many of them in my district and it's sad that we can't provide them with the support they need when they are the ones making the ultimate sacrifice. The cuts to TRICARE over the years are despicable and soon we will have almost nothing to offer our men and women fighting abroad in the area of domestic care. Among those in Houston who have been brave enough to serve is Texas State Representative Rick Noriega who is with the Texas Army National Guard. He has served as state representative for District 145 for 6 years and when he was called to duty in Afghanistan he went to serve his nation, truly an inspiration to many. However, he left behind a wife and two children, who were proud, but unfortunately they were left with insufficient coverage by TRICARE. His family has suffered harsh treatment because they demanded more from TRICARE and weren't receiving it. Their story is not uncommon throughout the nation. Many doctors won't accept TRICARE because it is inadequate. The sad fact is that 20 percent of all Reservists do not have health insurance, and 40 percent of Reservists aged 19 to 35 lack health coverage according to a 2003 report by the General Accounting Office. According to the latest Defense Department data, 18 percent of activated Reservists have no medical coverage. These facts are deplorable, I pray for families like State Representative Noriega's and others who don't have access to sufficient care. How can we say that we are proud of our men and women fighting abroad when we can't even care for them and their families when they return to this nation of ours?

I can only hope in the future that such significant legislation as this will involve the debate and full consideration of all necessary and relevant amendments. The men and women of our Armed Forces and indeed the American people as a whole deserve as much. Again, I rise in full support of the Taylor Motion to Recommit and consider this truly vital amendment on TRICARE.

#### HONORING THE TEN TOWNS GREAT SWAMP WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Ten Towns Great Swamp Watershed Management Committee of Morris County, New Jersey, a vibrant organization I am proud to represent! On June 15, 2005 the Trustees and Friends of the Committee are celebrating its Tenth Anniversary.

The Great Swamp Watershed is a 55 square mile region in Morris and Somerset Counties and includes portions of

Bernardsville Borough, Bernards Township, Chatham Township, Township of Harding, Long Hill Township, Borough of Madison, Mendham Borough, Mendham Township, the Town of Morristown, and Morris Township.

The Ten Towns Great Swamp Watershed Management Committee was formed in 1995 through an Inter-municipal Cooperative Agreement among the ten municipalities that have lands within the Great Swamp Watershed. Developed under the auspices of the Morris County leadership group, Morris 2000 (now Morris Tomorrow), the Ten Towns Committee was formed for the specific purpose of developing and implementing a watershed management plan for the watershed in the Upper Passaic River basin of northern New Jersey.

Since its formation, the Ten Towns Committee has developed a full range of programs to protect water quality and water resources in the Great Swamp, including: a water quality monitoring program, development of environmental ordinances, and construction of "Best Management Practices" improvements to correct existing non-point source pollution conditions.

The Ten Towns Committee has been recognized as a model in the state of New Jersey and has received awards for its work from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

It has also been my pleasure on several occasions to assist the Association with Federal support which enhances their critical work that both protects this remarkable national asset, the Great Swamp, and protects, for future generations, precious water supplies.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the members of the Ten Towns Great Swamp Watershed Management Committee on the celebration of the Committee's ten years serving the Great Swamp Watershed area. Special praise is due to their dedicated staff and active volunteers who work tirelessly to protect and enhance the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge and Wilderness Area.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF ARMY SERGEANT CHARLES J. WEBB

**HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Army Sergeant Charles J. Webb. As our country honors our military personnel, both past and present, this Memorial Day, I want to take this opportunity to remember those who have sacrificed their lives for our freedom and security.

Sergeant Webb leaves behind the most important legacy any man can leave: a strong and healthy family who knows he loved them with all his heart. His love and commitment to his wife Stephanie is the best testament to his character and to his heart.

Sergeant Webb had aspirations to be a high school History Teacher. He is remembered as a loyal and committed soldier, and I have no doubt he would have extended his sense of duty and commitment to the teaching profession and would have been an effective and motivating teacher.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I pay my last respects to a young man who was so full of life; to a young man who had a full and bright future ahead of him. I pray Army Sergeant Webb's family and friends find peace in their hearts, knowing his country is grateful and humbled by his sacrifice. I thank our brave men and women in uniform for continuing with our mission in Iraq, which is the ultimate tribute to our fallen soldiers, marines, sailors, and airmen.

Charles, to you I offer my sincere gratitude and my solemn commitment to continue to support your friends, the members of your unit, and the men and women in Iraq who are continuing without you. Thank you for seeing a vision greater than yourself and for the strength of your commitment to our country. God bless you.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, because of family illness I missed the following votes: On May 19, 2005 on rollcall vote #190, On Ordering the Previous Question; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2361) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; I would have voted "nay."

On May 19, 2005 on rollcall vote #191, On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 2361; the Hefley of Colorado Amendment; I would have voted "nay."

On May 19, 2005 on rollcall vote #193, On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 2361; the Terry of Nebraska Amendment; I would have voted "nay."

On May 19, 2005 on rollcall vote #194, On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 2361; the Obey of Wisconsin Amendment No. 2; I would have voted "yea."

On May 19, 2005 on rollcall vote #195, On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 2361; the Beauprez of Colorado Amendment; I would have voted "nay."

On May 19, 2005 on rollcall vote #196, On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 2361; the Rahall of West Virginia Amendment; I would have voted "yea."

On May 19, 2005 on rollcall vote #197, On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 2361; the Hefley of Colorado Amendment; I would have voted "nay."

On May 19, 2005 on rollcall vote #198, On Motion to Recommit with Instructions; for H.R. 2361 Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006; I would have voted "yea."

On May 19, 2005 on rollcall vote #199, On Passage; for H.R. 2361 Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006; I would have voted "yea."

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE TREATY BETWEEN THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE UMATILLA INDIAN RESERVATION AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty between the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the United States Government. I am proud to represent the people of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in Congress and am always warmly welcomed when I visit the reservation.

Mr. Speaker, since time immemorial, the people of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation have lived on the Columbia River Plateau. Specifically, their homeland is the area now known as north-eastern Oregon and southeastern Washington. The Umatilla Tribes currently have over 2,446 tribal members who continue to care for and live on the land of their ancestors.

On May 28, 2005, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla will gather to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the treaty they signed with the United States Government. For the members of the Umatilla tribes this is an opportunity to remember and honor their ancestors who signed the treaties and to educate their youth and the public about these important documents.

I think it is fitting as we near the anniversary of this treaty to share with my colleagues a little bit of the history of the treaty signing. For nearly three weeks in late May and June of 1855, thousands of Native Americans from the Cayuse, Umatilla and Walla Tribes, along with the Nez Perce, Yakama and some bands of the Colville, all convened in the Walla Walla Valley, Washington Territory for a historic treaty council. During this three-week period the tribes met and negotiated with Washington Territory Governor Isaac Stevens and Superintendent for Indian Affairs of Oregon Territory Joel Palmer.

The agreement that came from this three-week negotiation has been the guiding document between the Umatilla, Cayuse, and Walla Walla people with the United States Government for the past 150 years and thus the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla, Yakama, and Nez Perce Reservations were created.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to note that the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation have a long history of strong leadership and continue to preserve their traditional cultures and languages. Their leaders were among the most influential negotiators at the Treaty Council 150 years ago and today the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla are regarded as outstanding leaders within Indian Country.

Their leadership and innovative economic endeavors help lead the way in eastern Oregon and in Indian Country. The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation determine their own futures through successfully operating a wide range of their own services

and almost all of their Federal programs, including health services, housing, education, police and fire protection, tribal courts, natural resources management and protection, fisheries, administration, and economic development and employ over 1000 people in the region.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent what is today the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and it is an honor to work closely with them to help improve their futures and the futures of all eastern Oregonians.

BIENNIAL BUDGETING AND APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 2005

**HON. DAVID DREIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, the annual rush to complete action on budget, authorization and appropriations bills not only results in a poor budget process, but also reduces the amount of time available for careful oversight and management of existing Federal programs. During the 31-year history of the Budget Act, Congress has met the deadline for completion of a budget resolution only five times. Since 1953, Congress has been forced to enact continuing resolutions to fund government activities past the end of the fiscal year in every year but four (FY1953, FY1989, FY1995 and FY1997). And according to the Congressional Budget Office, Congress provided \$170 billion in fiscal year 2005 appropriations for 167 statutes whose authorizations had expired.

That is why I introduced the Biennial Budgeting and Appropriations Act of 2005, which streamlines the budget process and improves the fiscal management and oversight of government programs by instituting a biennial budget system. Under the bill, the President would submit a two-year budget and Congress would consider a two-year budget resolution and 11 two-year appropriations bills during the first session. The second session would be devoted to consideration of authorization bills, programmatic oversight of government agencies and emergency spending bills. Mr. Speaker, this is a proposal we've entertained in the past, and I believe it deserves another look.

By eliminating repetitive and time-consuming appropriations work, the Congress as a whole and even the appropriations subcommittees would be better able to focus on oversight. This would also contribute to more appropriate funding decisions in biennial appropriation bills and any necessary supplemental/recision legislation. As with oversight, biennial budgeting would allow more time for needed authorization legislation. In addition, the overwhelming appropriations workload every year has upset the intended balance in the role of authorizations and appropriations. Biennial budgeting would help restore the importance of the authorization process.

Preparing for annual appropriations is as much or more of a drain on time and resources for Federal agencies as it is for Congress. It takes nearly three years for the Administration and Congress to produce and implement one annual budget. As a result, a

great deal of time and manpower are diverted from managing existing programs, leading to delays in reform implementation and creating a slower and more bureaucratic government. Biennial budgeting would provide Federal agencies more time for program oversight, increasing agency efficiency and providing them with more stable and predictable budgets. In addition, Congress would be able to exercise better oversight over them.

As recently as World War II, all but four States had biennial budgeting. The growing dependence on annually appropriated big-government programs, however, helped move many to change to annual cycles. Although this trend has reversed in recent years (today, 21 States have biennial budgets), biennial budgeting at the Federal level would help States return to this commonsense process. Even if States retain annual cycles, they will benefit from more stable and predictable Federal funding.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support the Biennial Budgeting and Appropriations Act of 2005. It will provide a starting point for discussions on how to improve the budget process and foster improved governance for the American people.

CONGRATULATING THE ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' LACROSSE TEAM

**HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the St. Mary's High School girls' lacrosse team of Annapolis, Maryland in honor of its 2005 Interscholastic Athletic Association of Maryland (IAAM) A1 Conference Championship.

This remarkable team, the Saints, culminated a season of phenomenal play by defeating Anne Arundel County rival Severn School in a tightly contested game by a score of 7 to 6 to bring home the championship for the first time in 9 years. This season these young ladies played some of the best high school lacrosse teams in the Nation.

In just her third year as Head Coach of the Saints, Sue Chittim is to be congratulated along with her assistant coaches, Megan Lewis and Steve Clarke, for their ability to motivate and inspire their players with a positive attitude to play unselfishly as a team. The success of the Saints' lacrosse program is a true credit to Coach Chittim's vision and ability as a coach. As the IAAM tournament began, Coach Chittim's mantra for her team was, "Don't tell me how rough the waters are . . . just bring in the ship."

The Saints 4 seniors, Kelly Gaudreau, Bri Gauthier, Mindy Jones, and Bridget Noon, played their final high school lacrosse game as true champions and undoubtedly all season long were role models for their underclass teammates.

The remaining players, Sarah Beckstead, Alex Bertrand, Christian Carr, Caroline Cochran, Laura Ford, Devon Kelly, Morgan Kelly, Alex Kuntz, Jessica Liberto, Stephanie Murtha, Erin O'Donovan, Allison Perkins, Jackie Proch, Kelly Reid, Mary Ruttum, Kim Schindel, Samantha Schrum, and Erika Welck, contributed immensely to the success of the Saints